

B R O B D I N G N A G

Brobdningnag #48

1966AQ (Fall 1902)

4 November 1966

Game 1966AQ

Fall 1902

RUSSIA EXTENDS AUSTRIAN SALIENT: VIENNA FALLS  
FRANCE RE-CAPTURES BELGIUM. RHINE LINE HOLDS  
CONFUSED FIGHTING BUT NO VICTORIES IN BALKANS  
POWERS EXCHANGE THREATS BY TELEGRAM

The moves:

FRANCE (Thompson): Army Burgundy supports army Picardy - Belgium. Army Picardy - Belgium. Army Paris - Picardy. Army Gascony supports army Burgundy. Fleet Mid-Atlantic - English Channel.

RUSSIA (Reinsel): Army St. Petersburg - Norway. Fleet Norway - Sweden. Army Bohemia supports army Galicia - Vienna. Army Galicia - Vienna. Army Rumania - Budapest. Fleet Black Sea - Rumania.

GERMANY (Nelson): Army Ruhr - Munich. Army Holland - Ruhr. Army Belgium stands. Fleet Kiel supports fleet Denmark. Fleet Denmark stands.

AUSTRIA (Duncan): Army Vienna - Bohemia. Army Budapest - Silesia. Army Serbia - Rumania. Fleet Greece - Aegean Sea. Fleet Albania - Greece.

ENGLAND (Long): Fleet Barents Sea - St. Petersburg (north coast). Army Finland supports fleet Barents Sea to St. Petersburg. Fleet Skagerrak - Sweden. Fleet North Sea - Norway.

TURKEY (Greene): Army Bulgaria - Greece. Fleet Aegean Sea - Ionian Sea. Fleet Smyrna - Eastern Mediterranean. Army Constantinople - Bulgaria.

ITALY (Goldman): Army Venice - Tyrolia. Army Apulia - Tunis. Fleet Ionian Sea convoys army Apulia - Tunis.

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Austrian order to the army in Budapest is illegal as Budapest and Silesia have no common border. The Russian army in St. Petersburg is forced to retreat and has Livonia and Moscow open to it. The German army in Belgium is forced to retreat and has only Holland open to it. The Austrian army in Vienna is forced to retreat and has only Trieste open to it. The player for Russia is to submit a retreat order with the Winter moves. All other powers with Winter moves may make those moves conditional on the direction of the Russian retreat, as retreats occur before builds and removals.

As a result of these moves the belligerent powers control the supply centres listed overleaf.

RUSSIA: Warsaw, Sevastopol, Moscow, Norway, Sweden, Rumania, Vienna.  
7 in all. May build 1.

FRANCE: 3 home, 2 Iberian, Belgium. 6 in all. May build 1.

GERMANY: 3 home, Denmark, Holland. 5 in all. No change.

AUSTRIA: Budapest, Trieste, Serbia, Greece. 4 in all. Must remove 1.

ENGLAND: 3 home, St. Petersburg. 4 in all. No Change.

TURKEY: 3 home, Bulgaria. 4 in all. No change.

ITALY: 3 home, Tunis. 4 in all. May build 1.

Tuesday, 22 November 1936.  
Deadline for retreats, builds and removals is 11:59 p.m. November 1936.  
Builds and removals may be made, if desired, conditional on the one  
uncertain retreat.

#### PRESS RELEASES

London, 1 Nov.: The Admiralty today reported the Russian capital was taken after a vigorous seige. Upon hearing this news Prime Minister Treu declared war against Russia. The whole of the British people were infuriated at the Russian occupation of Norway. An all out attempt will be made to liberate the people of Scandinavia from the Russian dogs. The Russians will soon realize what "at all costs" means.

Warsaw, 2 Nov. A state of war now exists between Russia and England. Based on a treaty of 1900 Russia and Germany will now unite against France and England. Russia and Italy are not at war. However, Russia and Turkey are allied against Austria; and Italy is requested to stay out of it if she wishes to survive the holocaust that is coming.

"War is peace", Tsar Charles I was quoted as saying, at the conclusion of the announcement of the declaration of war. Constantinople, 8 Nov. General Dewildermont was cheered wildly when he announced that "England's constant aggression against our ally, Russia, has forced our government to declare that a state of War exists between England and the Ottoman Empire", (complete pandemonium broke loose at this point) "and may I add, with (cheers).. that Admiral Pozzoza's 1st armoured coast defense squadron will be dispatched to the west." (Renewed cheers).

Rome, 10. Nov. The nation of Italy is irrevocably committed to the support of the Austrian government and people. The nation of Italy is united and adamant in its demand that neighbors of Austria leave that nation untrammelled in the pursuit of its peaceful economic development.

The nation of Italy will consider itself at war with any country which does not immediately cease attacks upon territory owned by the government of Austria.

Venice, 20 Nov. The VI army Corps has been directed to move northward and occupy the passes of the Tyrolean Alps to defend Vicuna and Trieste from possible attack. From whom, is not yet clear.

TELEGRAMS between the powers, intercepted at Geneva:

Ankara to Rome, 5 Sept.: You're back in the game. O. K. The Sultan and the Duke will fulfill Turkey's obligations, if Italy does also. If not by Spring 1903, then war. May the Duke add, A Supply in the hand is worth two in the bin of Asia.

Ankara to Berlin, 6 Sept. If Italy fails her treaty obligations, would you like some grain from the rich Vienna highlands and the Po valley for your starving peasants in Silesia?

England to Turkey. The dog is ripe.

From the Grand Duchy of Great Zott ((No addressee; apparently broadcast to the world.)). Italy massing on Austria-Hungary with Russia and Turkey as a mass of messy Macedonians mass a messy mass of internal problems. Italian moves aimed at fooling Austria-Hungary; be warned Austria-Hungary.

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Game 1966AV.

Spring 1902.

GERMAN FORCES OCCUPY NORMANDY, ALSACE, LORRAINE, AND BURGUNDY  
FRENCH FIRST DIVISION IN CHANNEL; ITALIAN NAVY MOVES WESTWARD  
HUNGARIANS SEIZE SOTIA AS DUAL MONARCHY PUSHES SOUTH EAST  
BATTLE OF CONSTANTA: TURKISH AND RUSSIAN ELEMENTS EXCHANGING FIRE

The moves:

GERMANY (Shagrin): Army Berlin to Munich. Army Kiel to Ruhr. Army Munich to Burgundy. Army Denmark stands. Army Belgium to Picardy. Fleet Holland to Belgium.

RUSSIA (Zelazny): Fleet Rumania to Black Sea. Fleet Sevastopol to Rumania. Army Moscow to Sevastopol. Army Ukraine supports fleet Sevastopol to Rumania. Army St. Petersburg holds. Fleet Sweden holds.

AUSTRIA (Lunro): Army Serbia to Bulgaria. Fleet Greece supports army Serbia to Bulgaria. Fleet Trieste to Adriatic. Army Vienna to Tyrolia. Army Budapest to Trieste.

ENGLAND (Wells): Fleet English Channel to Mid-Atlantic Ocean. Fleet London to English Channel. Fleet Norway to North Sea. Army Wales stands.

FRANCE (Birsan): Army Burgundy to Marseilles. Army Spain to Portugal. Fleet Picardy to English Channel. Fleet Bretagne supports Fleet Picardy to English Channel.

ITALY (Francis): Army Piedmont stands. Army Venice to Tyrolia. Fleet Naples to Tyrrhenian Sea. Fleet Tunis to Western Mediterranean.

TURKEY (Lebling): Army Bulgaria to Rumania. Army Armenia to Sevastopol.

Fleet Black Sea supports army Armenia to Sevastopol. Fleet Constantinople to Bulgaria (east coast).

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Turkish army formerly in Bulgaria is dislodged and, having no available retreat, is removed from the board. There are no other dislodgments. Deadline for moves for Fall 1902 is Tuesday, 22 November 1966.

PRESS RELEASES

Constantinople, 12 Feb. (Imperial Turkish New Agency): The Turkish naval forces in the Black Sea (The 1st Fleet and the 2nd Task Force of the 2nd Fleet) won a great victory over their Russian counterparts yesterday. The Russian fleet operating out of Constanta in Rumania and Odessa near the mouth of the Dniester, was ambushed about 30km off the Bulgarian coast by the advancing arm of the First Fleet. The Russian fleet managed to get into battle formation, but was severely damaged by fire from the Turkish dreadnaughts. The light cruiser Soutari was sunk by the Russians, but damage to the rest of the fleet was slight. The Russians lost one battleship, four light cruisers, two heavy cruisers and at least one destroyer. The remainder of the Turkish naval forces was in the eastern area of the Sea, supporting the Second Army's drive toward Kiflis, in the Caucasus. There were no reports on the First Army's doings on the Rumanian frontier available for release as yet.

Constantinople, 4 March (ITNA): His Imperial Majesty, Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of Rum, Emperor of Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, today adds two new titles to his present ones: King of Bulgaria and Caliph of the Isle. The annexation of the former Kingdom of Bulgaria and of the British protectorate of the Sudan was announced today. It is rumoured that the Sultan would like to add King of Rumania and Czar of all the Russics to his titles. In his address the Sultan declared that "as long as the people of Austria-Hungary recognize the legitimate ambitions of the people of Turkey, as we respect theirs, there can be peace between our peoples, and the imperialism of the Czar can be checked. In answer to those who would have us attack our friends to the west, I can only say that it is fitting that we two, who by all other powers have been bullied and harassed, should grow to greater stature than they had deemed possible."

Paris, 17 March (AP). The French defense ministry said today that France extends her arms to any Italian peace talks, and to the English we extend our navy."

WILE DISCUSSION

The latest issue of sTab, #22, (John Noning, 313 South Lake Vista, Youngstown, Ohio, 44503), contains an excellent summary of the ambiguities, omissions, and contradictions in the rulebook. When, in WILE #44, I published a list of the ambiguities known to me, I intended to follow it up with a series of paragraphs on each of the items listed. John Noning's discussion almost makes that idea superfluous. However, I have decided to go ahead with it anyway; it may add a little historical background to John's remarks, if nothing else.

In the meantime, all readers who have any interest in the

details of the rules are urged to read John's article. In almost every case his conclusions are identical with my own.

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MCINTYRE'S RULE

The rulebook states: "A unit ordered to move, even if unsuccessful, still may cut a support or stand off a single unit, even though its own position is attacked with support and it is consequently dislodged."

The intent of the rule is the following. Germany, for example, has an army in Bohemia and fears a French attack on Munich from Burgundy. Germany plays Bohemia to Munich to stand the attack off. Meanwhile Austria turns on its erstwhile ally, Germany, and plays Vienna to Bohemia, Budapest supporting. The dislodged Bohemian force must retreat, to Silesia, say; but, nevertheless, its abortive move to Munich suffices to stand off the French move. *Nei* enough.

What, though, if France is not involved and Germany plays Bohemia to Vienna? The attack from Vienna is successful, as before, and the Bohemian force must again retreat. What if Austria also orders army Trieste to Vienna? The literal wording of the quoted section of the rulebook would stand of this latter movement, right through the attacking army which actually dislodged the force.

That the quoted rule was not intended to include this case is shown clearly enough by the example at the back of the book. The move of the English fleet North Sea to Norway in the Fall of 1902, would have been stood off by the Russian move St. Petersburg to Norway, the English move, however, is shown as succeeding, and not stood off, as strict obedience to the quoted rule would require.

In the early days this discrepancy between the main part of the rulebook and the illustrative example in the back of it, was not noted, and every gamesmaster just ruled according to his feelings for the game. In particular, John Boardman, in *Dravstark* #50, Game 1935A, allowed such a follow-in move to succeed, just as is done in the illustrative example. On the other hand, John Smythe, who then published *Dravtor*, in #6 of that journal, ruled in conformity with the literal wording of the text. All of these moves were recorded by the gamesmasters concerned without comment, and it is conceivable that neither of them was aware of the contradiction in the rulebook - no one else was.

The next development occurred in a game in *Classif* edited by John McHenry. Smythe, one of the players in that game, found himself in a position where a "follow-in" move could be made against him. He wanted to be sure that the ruling would be made which would disallow the move and pointed out to McHenry his interpretation of the rulebook on the issue. John McHenry then made a study of all published games, and of the rulebook, and discovered the discrepancy in previous practice between one gamesmaster and another, and the discrepancy between the body of the rulebook and the example given in it. He published his findings in *Classif* #5, ruled in favour of the example rather than the law of the rulebook. McHenry's rule has been a point of source of argument among Diplomacy players ever since.

Though McHenry clearly stated his views in *Classif* #5, he did not actually formulate a rule. Every magazine using it has had, however, to produce its own wording. Something like, "If two forces each attack the space occupied by the other, and if one, by dint of more effective support, dislodges the other, then a third force, attempting to occupy

the space from which the victorious forces moves, is not stated off by the abortive attack of the flooded ad force." By the way, the name "Moning's Rule" was first applied to this by Charles Sims, similarly for "Prannan's Rule".

Calhauer, the inventor of the game, has several times declared that he had intended to have something equivalent to Moning's Rule in the game, but that it was omitted at the last minute. See his letter in PROB #31, and his more recent article in Diplomachia #12, and in Graustark #100.

Moning's Rule is important for two reasons. First, it is the only instance known of an actual contradiction in the rulebook. As a result discussion of it tends to reveal the designer's whole philosophy as regards the rules. Secondly, it occurs quite frequently in actual games. Counting over-the-board games, nearly a hundred games of Diplomacy have been published or are in course of publication. Most of the ambiguities which we shall discuss have occurred only once or twice in all those games - some have not yet occurred at all. Moning's Rule situation, on the other hand, arises quite often. It is, therefore, important to both gamesmaster and player to know how any particular game is being run in this respect.

With all the discussion which Moning's Rule has had since Massif #5 it is perhaps not surprising that many people have altered their opinion on it. As we have seen, Moning made his ruling in the first place largely in order to keep his practice consistent with Boordman's. It is ironic, therefore, that Boordman has recently declared against the rule (Graustark #8, reply to a letter from Moning). Smythe, the original protagonist on the other side, ruled in Game 1934D, stab #2, in a way which indicated that he was then accepting the rule. (Incidentally Game 1934D was also the game in which he had earlier ruled in a sense indicating that he followed the literal reading of the rulebook; so this game does violence to the usual rule that a precedent set in any game, will be adhered to throughout that game.)

Prannan, like Boordman, has changed his stand on this issue, although he, of course, never in the course of his discussion. One of his Wild 'n Wooly house-rules, #7 in the most recent printing (Wild 'n Wooly #65, page 4), is equivalent to saying that Moning's rule will not be used. However, he has recently indicated (Wild 'n Wooly #65, page 5) that Moning's rule will be used in his new journal, Malmar.

Charles Wells, at one time a strenuous supporter of the rule, is now lukewarm in his support of it, although he still uses it (see Lonely Mountain #24). And Moning himself has indicated (Graustark #93) that either interpretation is acceptable to him but that he would like to see uniformity.

PROB#410 has up to now used Moning's rule. But it would do so was stated at the outset of the current games (PROB #41). As a player I still like the rule and recently, quite unfairly, complained to Prannan for not following it in a game or two that I was in. However, to Prannan, the more I look into it, the less I like the rule. The reason for that change of heart will become apparent as this series of articles continues.

Nonetheless, for the duration of the present two games, Moning's rule will apply in PROB, in accordance with the previous announcement.

(Parenthetically, I might remark that it is above noted have been

ester to write it all off the three friends also, Smythe, Lenting, and Morenden, which he had the same given name, John.)

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RUSSIA: Army Rumania to Bulgaria. Fleet Black Sea supports army Rumania to Bulgaria.  
ARMY: Army Bulgaria to Rumania. Army Budapest supports army Bulgaria to Rumania. Army Serbia supports army Bulgaria to Rumania. Army Constantinople to Bulgaria.

The underlined move obviously fails and the Russian army in Rumania is routed and must retreat. Without the Black Sea fleet move this would be a simple Moning's rule situation and would require no comment. With the move of the fleet to follow Moning's rule and permit the army from Constantinople to enter Bulgaria is to permit an unsupported move which is opposed by a supported move.

Discovery of this case shock Wells' own enthusiasm for Moning's rule. He continues to use the rule, at least in its simple form but is uncertain whether he uses the extension or not. Moning, however, does allow the relieving force to come up behind the victor, even though the attacking force is supported. (See sTab #22.)

IRONDOME will follow Moning's rule, even in the extended case here discussed, for the duration of the present two games. But IRONDOME is very unhappy about the rule, for reasons which will become more apparent in following issues.

For a much more concise discussion of the two topics covered above, please read Moning's article in sTab #22.

... players in IRONDOME require additional players for games they are organizing. Their journals are:

Brother, Charles J. Reinsel, 130 8th Ave., Clarion, Penn. 16214.

Brother, Dave Rebling, 3 Rollins Court, Rockville, Md., 20852.

One of the painful things about our times is that those who feel certainty are stupid, and those with any imagination and understanding are filled with doubt and indecision.

— Bertrand Russell.

POSTAL DIPLOMACY is a journal of Postal Diplomacy. It reports games 1936-1937 and 1938-1939. A subscription to last until the end of either game may be had for two dollars. Other subscriptions and back issues at 50 cents a copy. It is published and edited by J. A. McCallum, Weston, Illinois, Canada.